

Shortgrass Men Rue The Day When Pipes Replaced The Water Bucket

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MERTZON — The introduction of indoor plumbing has long been recognized as one of the momentous events in the history of the Shortgrass Country. It marked the opening of an era the Indians called "The Paleface's Biggest Miscue," and some people consider it the largest contribution ever made to the overall grief of male residents of this section.

Historians agree no other episode except the drouth of 1845 to 1906 caused so much suffering.

Shortly after the first pipe was thrust through a wall, there began a classic struggle between man, woman, and plumbing fixtures. Then men were soon to learn that serious side effects had accompanied the transition. Primarily, they found that the slightest interruption in the flow of incoming or outgoing water was to be interpreted by their mates as being a subtle tactic aimed at reopening the hostilities of the Woman Suffrage Wars.

Secondly, the men discovered that our water possessed the ability to clog, corrode, or freeze into insoluble matter in proportions that could not be matched anywhere else on the globe.

A major role in the tragedy was played by kitchen sinks. The men learned that the entire female community believed a one-inch drain line was capable of expelling any type of kitchen refuse, from walnut shells to watermelon rinds. The men's lessons on this subject were learned from a prone position, with a Stilson wrench in hand and with the temper gland in high gear.

In the same year, the husbands started their short courses in air locks and leaky hydrants. Non-flushable commodes and reverse-action vent lines were gradually added to the curriculum. Needless to say, the happiness gap on the domestic front was stretched to hitherto unknown widths.

Then came the economic aspects of indoor plumbing. Daily, husbands were reminded that the expense of maintaining forced-in and forced-out water in the home was close to the figure necessary to water a good size herd of mother cows. You see, the countryside by this time abounded in repairmen and jobbers of plumbing supplies who were eager to reduce homeowners to penniless servitude.

After the men realized they were virtual slaves to the plumbing curse, another symptom appeared. It ended or radically changed the entire scope of male creative work.

Somber music and dreary poetry became widely appreciated. Gay essays and art dealing with peaceful pastoral scenes were replaced by mournful stories and morbid paintings. Nowhere in the land were the artists, bards or pundits able to dispel the horrible effects of dripping water, gurgling sinks and the eternally bothersome rumble of bathroom appliances.

To this very day, men are oppressed by indoor plumbing systems. Their lives are blighted by the constantly faltering pipes and fixtures. Domestic battles have kept current with plumbing progress and peace is unknown where water isn't hauled from a well. Crossed threads and cross tempers continue to mar the general scene and, as usual, the male Shortgrasser is caught in a no-trump game, holding all the deuces and treys.